Concordia
UNIVERSITY

October 19 and 20 1991

DOWNTOWN LIBRARY COMPLEX TO OPEN IN AUTUMN OF 1992

Concordia University's new downtown library complex will open in the fall of 1992. The $65 million project contains study space for graduate and undergraduate students, seminar rooms, conference rooms, faculty offices, and all of the library facilities currently housed on 11 floors in four, widely scattered downtown locations.

The new building is 10 storeys at its highest point (along Mackay Street), with descending heights along de Maisonneuve Boulevard, Bishop Street, and the laneway at the southern end of the site.

The complex contains two underground parking levels, and will be connected to Concordia's Henry F. Hall Building by a passageway under de Maisonneuve Boulevard.

The east side of the building, on Bishop Street, incorporates the front section of the former Royal George Apartment Building, including that structure's elegant, 79-year-old glazed terra-cotta façade.

The entire project was designed by the Montréal-based architectural consortium of Werleman & Guy Blouin & Associés.

Funding for the building was provided through two principal sources. Students, faculty, staff, and alumni joined with corporations, foundations and friends during the Campaign for Concordia to donate $15 million towards its cost. The Québec government was the other major source of funding.

Facts & Figures

- The ground floor of the complex features a spacious, naturally lit, 24-foot-wide interior street and community space known as Place Concordia. The entire area is enclosed by a six-storey atrium.

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- Place Concordia will be the new address for the Concordia University Art Gallery, the University bookstore, a student administrative services area (e.g. Admissions, Registrar's Services and Financial Aid), a dining area and a 200-seat cinema for teaching, conferences and the Conservatory of Cinematographic Art. More than 100,000 people a year visit the Concordia Art Gallery and the Conservatory of Cinematographic Art.

- Elevators and stairs on the Mackay Street side of the building lead to a second-floor lobby outside the library's main entrance. The two halves of the complex are joined across the atrium by bridges.

- The main entrance to the new complex is located on de Maisonneuve Boulevard, directly across from the entrance to the Henry F. Hall Building. There are secondary entrances on Mackay Street and at the southern end of the atrium.

- The library portion of the complex will be consolidated on floors two, three and four, and will feature the latest in library design and equipment.

- Floors five and six, as well as the four half-floors of non-library space atop the building (along Mackay Street), will house some of the academic departments currently located in more than 30 annexes and rented buildings that Concordia occupies in downtown Montréal.

- The library complex contains approximately half a million square feet (gross) of space divided as follows.

- 170,000 square feet of library and study space

- 225,000 square feet of non-library space divided into:
    - 175,000 square feet of faculty offices, seminar rooms and conference rooms
    - 50,000 square feet on the ground floor for community space (the bookstore, cinema and art gallery, etc...)

- The remaining space is located on two basement levels.

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LIBRARY COMPLEX USES INGENIOUS TECHNOLOGY TO RESIST EARTHQUAKES

MONTRÉAL / 19 October 1991 -- Concordia University's downtown library complex features the latest technology to minimize earthquake damage.

Although Montréal is not a high-risk earthquake zone, seismic activity is not uncommon. Strong tremors were recorded as recently as 1989.

Anti-seismic devices in the Concordia complex will not only prevent the building's collapse, but should ensure that it remains fully operational in the event of an earthquake.

The system functions in the same way as brake pads in a car. Friction joints, lodged between steel plates held in contact by pretensioned steel bolts, are installed at the intersections of the cross-bracing in more than 150 locations in the complex.

When tremors are sufficiently strong, the joints slide, thereby dissipating energy and limiting the sway of the building.

The anti-seismic technology was developed during the early 1980s by Avtar Pall, at the time a graduate student working under the guidance of Professor Cedric Marsh of Concordia's Centre for Building Studies (CBS).

Dr. Pall is currently an Adjunct Professor at CBS and President of Pall Dynamics Ltd. He holds patents on anti-seismic technology in 10 countries.

Modern anti-seismic technology not only increases human safety, but saves money because building codes can be met at reduced cost.

Research is continuing at the Centre for Building Studies into other ways of using friction to control seismic damage, particularly by isolating buildings from their foundations. The Centre for Building Studies is part of Concordia University's Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science.

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